

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In an Official Action dated May 20, 2004, claims 1-22 were rejected. In addition, the drawings were rejected, and new drawings are provided.

Applicants herein cancel claims 1-22 and add new claims 23-31. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 15, and 17 under §112. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 3, 15, and 17 and thus this rejection no longer is applicable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-17, and 20-21 under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Papierniak. Claims 1-22 have been canceled, thus this rejection is no longer applicable. In the interests of advancing prosecution, however, some of the new claims will be discussed with respect to Papierniak.

New independent claims 23, 29, and 30 respectively recite a method, computer program product, and system for tracking historical data from different sources, comprising processing source-specific data originating at sources with disparate formats into source-independent data with a single, common format; storing the source-independent data; automatically determining dimensions of the stored data having historically significant attributes; and in response to a change to a dimension having a historically significant attribute, creating a historical record of the change. These aspects of the claimed invention advantageously provide the ability to process data from of different sources into a common format and create a historical record of changes to the data. Maintaining a historical record of changes to historically significant attributes of the data is desirable in order to track not

merely what changes were made to the data, but also to preserve the nature of the data prior to the change being made. This is useful for, example, in analytic applications that need to determine the state of the data at various points in time.

These aspects of the claimed invention are not disclosed by Papierniak.

Papierniak discloses collection and storage of internet and e-commerce data in a data storage area, but does not disclose at least processing data originating at different sources into a single, common format or creating a historical record of changes to the data. There is no mention in Papierniak, for example, of “automatically determining dimensions of the stored data having historically significant attributes; and in response to a change to a dimension having a historically significant attribute, creating a historical record of the change.” Thus, claims 23, 29 and 30 are patentable over Papierniak.

Dependent claims 24-28, 31 variously depend from their respective base claims, which were shown above to be patentable over Papierniak. In addition, these claims recite additional limitations that also are not disclosed by Papierniak.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papierniak in view of Bello. Applicants have canceled claims 1-22, thus this rejection is not longer applicable. Again, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 23-31 are patentably distinguishable from Papierniak as discussed above. Bello does not remedy the deficiencies of Papierniak discussed above. Bello merely discloses a method and system for processing queries, but does not disclose or suggest at least processing data originating at different sources into a single, common format or creating a historical record of changes to the data as variously claimed. Nor does Bello disclose or suggest “automatically determining dimensions of the stored data having

historically significant attributes; and in response to a change to a dimension having a historically significant attribute, creating a historical record of the change,” for example as recited in claim 23. Accordingly, the combination of Papierniak and Bello cannot disclose or suggest the elements of any of claims 23-31.

The deficient disclosures of these references, considered either alone or in combination, thus fail to establish even a *prima facie* basis from which a proper determination of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) can be made.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-31, as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references and request allowance of these claims.

In addition, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact Applicants’ representative at the number provided below if the Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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By:



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants have included herewith corrected drawings, for which replacement sheets are attached. These do not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.